

PENSHURST.

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HISTORICAL GUIDE
TO PENSHURST  
PLACE.

BY THE HON.
MARY SIDNEY.



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HISTORICAL GUIDE TO
PENSHURST PLACE.



PENSHURST PLACE, 1903.

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BY

THE HON. MARY SIDNEY.

WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS.

"Thou art not, Penshurst, built to envious show,
Of touch, or marble; nor canst boast a row
Of polished pillars, or a roof of gold;
Thou hast no lantern, whereof tales are told;
Or stair, or courts; but stand'st an ancient pile,
And, these grudged at, art revered the while."

—BEN JONSON.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: GOULDEN & CURRY.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL,
HAMILTON, KENT & Co., LTD.

1903.

[*Entered at Stationers' Hall.*]

TUNBRIDGE WELLS:
GOULDEN & CURRY.

June, 1903.

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HISTORICAL GUIDE TO PENSHURST PLACE.

PART I.

PENSHURST IN FEUDAL TIMES.

ALMOST six centuries have passed away since, in the sunny Kentish valley, hard by the banks of the river Medway, Sir John de Pulteney, knight, the great citizen of London, erected his dwelling-house of Penshurst, and, in 1341, by Letters Patent from King Edward III., had licence to strengthen it with walls of chalk and stone, and to embattle it.

Since then many a builder has had a hand in the making of Penshurst Place, as it stands to-day; a stately, picturesque pile, built partly of stone, partly of brick; of various styles, and bearing the impress of many succeeding generations; but still, notwithstanding the lapse of time, the grey buttressed walls and bold Gothic arches of Sir John de Pulteney's building remain, and sufficient of the ancient house

is left for us to be able to form an accurate idea of what a wealthy gentleman's house was like, in the feudal times of the fourteenth century.¹

Of course, the most remarkable feature of the original house is the Great Hall, of which the steep gabled roof attracts our attention outside in the Court, and which, inside, with its lofty, open, oak-timbered roof, the spars of which rest on grotesquely carved human figures, and the decorated Kentish tracery of its windows, has come down to us almost unaltered.

Entering the Porch, which has a vaulted roof and oak seats on either side, we come into the stone passage, called the Screens, divided from the Great Hall by a screen of split oak panels with two openings. This end of the Hall was given up to the servants, and in it, on the left, are three doorways; one leading to the Buttery, where the beer, cider and other drinks were given out; one, into a passage leading to the Kitchen,² and the third, into the Pantry, where the bread and other dry stores were kept. Over the Screens is the Minstrels' Gallery. It and the Porch at the further end of the stone passage, leading into the garden, are of later date, probably of the time of Queen Elizabeth. The window above the Minstrels' Gallery is worthy of

¹ For the greater part of the following description of Sir John de Pulteney's house, I am indebted to the paper on "Penshurst," read by J. H. Parker, Esq., before the Kent Archæological Society, July 16th, 1863.

² The old Kitchen was pulled down about 1830, but no doubt, the Kitchen in Sir John de Pulteney's time was merely a wooden structure.



THE GREAT HALL.

notice, as it is still filled with lattice panes of very ancient glass.

In the centre of the Hall is the hearth with its andirons, against which the huge logs of wood were placed; above it was an opening in the roof with a turret to cover it, called a "smoke louvre." Facing the Screens is the Daïs, where the lord, his family and guests used to dine. Behind the Daïs, and forming the end of the original house are two large chambers; the lower one has a vaulted roof, resting on stone pillars, and was no doubt used as the cellar; a door opens into it on the left hand side of the Daïs, close to the broad stone staircase leading to the "Solar," or upper chamber,¹ which was the lord's room, and was also used as a withdrawing-room for the ladies after dinner. It has a narrow slit in the wall forming a look-out into the Great Hall, whence the lord could keep a check on the more riotous proceedings of his retainers after he, his family and guests had retired. The fireplace has a hood over it, the earliest style of chimney-piece known in England. There were other rooms over the Porch, the Buttery and Pantry, and in the Towers, which probably stood at the angles of the Great Hall, one of which still remains. So there was no lack of accommodation.

Sir John de Pulteney had acquired the Manor of Penshurst² in 1338, by purchase from Thomas and

¹ Now called the Ballroom.

² According to Hasted, Penshurst takes its name from the old British word "Pen," the height or top of anything, and "Hurst," a wood. It is called in some ancient records

Stephen de Columbers, sons of Alice, younger daughter and co-heir of Sir Stephen de Penchester, whose ancestors already lived there in the time of William the Conqueror. Sir Stephen de Penchester possessed it in the beginning of the reign of Edward I. He had been knighted by King Henry III., and is mentioned several times in the reign of King Edward I. as being Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports. He was a man of great learning, and possessed much influence in the State. He died in 1299, leaving no son, and is buried in the south chancel of the Church at Penshurst (now the Sidney Chapel) where his effigy still exists.

Before acquiring the Manor of Penshurst, Sir John de Pulteney had already large possessions and was a man of great wealth. He was noted for his piety, charity and magnificent housekeeping. He was greatly esteemed by King Edward III., by whom he was knighted, and in whose reign he was four times Lord Mayor of London. He died in 1360, leaving a son and heir, William, only nine years of age. He directed that his body should be buried in the church of St. Lawrence, in London (since from him called Poulteney, or Pounteney), in which he had founded a College or Chantry.

Margaret his wife, daughter of John de Beresford

Pencestre or, more vulgarly, Penchester, from some fortified camp or fortress anciently situated there. Penshurst is not mentioned in the general survey of Domesday; nor indeed are any other parishes in the Hundred of Somerden, to which Penshurst belongs.

of London, survived him and appears to have been left a life interest in the estate. She married, as her second husband, Sir Nicholas Lovaine, and he, in right of his wife, also possessed an interest in the Manor. Sir William de Pulteney, her son, died without issue in the fortieth year of King Edward III.; and then the Manor of Penshurst and all the other estates of which Sir John de Pulteney had died possessed of, were conveyed to Sir Nicholas Lovaine and Margaret, his wife, and their heirs for ever. They left a son, Nicholas, and a daughter, Margaret. Nicholas married Margaret, eldest daughter of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and widow of Henry, Lord Beaumont. On the decease of her husband, Nicholas, without issue, Margaret married thirdly, Sir John Devereux, and he also, in right of his wife, became possessed of the Manor. He fought in the wars both of Edward III. and Richard II., was made a knight banneret by the latter, held various important posts, and was appointed Steward of the King's Household. In 1393, in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Richard II., he had licence to fortify his dwelling-house of Penshurst. He was summoned to Parliament among the Barons of the realm, and died in 1394, his wife, Margaret, having an assignment of the Manor as part of her dower. After her death, it reverted to Margaret, sister and heir of her second husband, Nicholas Lovaine. This lady married twice, her first husband being Richard Chamberlayne of Cotes, in Northamptonshire, and her second, Sir Philip St. Clere, of Aldham St. Clere in Ightham, in Kent. She and Sir Philip St. Clere both died within

a few days of each other, and the Manor of Penshurst descended to their son, John St. Clere, who, at the time of their death in 1408, was a minor. Later on, he conveyed it by sale to John, Duke of Bedford, third son of King Henry IV. by Mary, his wife, daughter and co-heir of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex and Northampton.

The Duke of Bedford, on the death of his brother, King Henry V., in 1422, had been appointed Regent of France during the minority of his nephew, Henry VI. He carried on the war there with great vigour and success, and in 1431, his nephew was crowned King of France in Paris; but, in 1435, the wise and valiant Regent died, and his death was also the death-blow to the English rule in France. He was buried in the Cathedral Church at Rouen. He enlarged the original house of Sir John de Pulteney by adding to it, beyond the upper end of the Great Hall, a building with a steep gabled roof and walls of great thickness.¹ The gables at either end are still surmounted by his cognizances, a Falcon and an Ibex, standing on the stumps of trees. Though twice married, he died without issue, and was succeeded by his next brother, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, fourth son of King Henry IV. During the minority of his nephew, King Henry VI., the Duke was Protector, and he governed England with so much wisdom and justice, that he was surnamed the "Good." Having, however, opposed

¹ This building contains the two State rooms called Queen Elizabeth's Room and the Tapestry Room, and commonly goes by the name of the Buckingham Building.

the marriage of Margaret of Anjou to his nephew, he incurred the hatred of that Queen, who was also jealous of his power. At her instigation, he was arrested at the Parliament held at Bury St. Edmunds in 1447; and a few days later was found dead in bed, it being generally believed that he had come to a violent end. He was buried in the Abbey of St. Albans. He was a man of considerable learning; he built the Divinity Schools at Oxford, and laid the foundation of the famous Library over them now called the Bodleian Library. In the Library of Oriel College, Oxford, is a manuscript of a work by John Capgrave, the Historian, which bears on the fly-leaf, in French, the following inscription: "This book belongs to me, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, the gift of brother John Capgrave, who presented it to me at my Manor of Penshurst, New Year's Day, 1438."

Having died without issue, his estates passed to King Henry VI., as his cousin and next heir, who, the same year, granted the Manor of Penshurst to Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, his first cousin. The Duke had fought in the wars with France and had been created Duke of Buckingham on the conclusion of the marriage of Margaret of Anjou with King Henry VI. He fell gallantly fighting on the King's side against the Duke of York at the battle of Northampton in 1460.¹ He had married Anne, daughter of Ralph, Earl of Westmorland. His eldest son, Humphrey, having been killed

¹ His arms, incorrectly quartered, are to be seen on one of the windows of the Tapestry Room.

at St. Albans in his lifetime, his grandson, Henry, inherited the title and estates. This Duke conspired with Richard, Duke of Gloucester, against King Edward V., and was mainly instrumental in setting him on the throne as King Richard III. As a reward, the Duke of Buckingham was invested with the great office of Constable, and also obtained the restitution of that part of the de Bohun estates which had been forfeited to the Crown. But, becoming discontented, he took up arms in favour of Henry, Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII., was taken prisoner and beheaded at Salisbury in 1483.

The Duke left several children by his wife Katherine, daughter of Richard Woodville, Earl Rivers, and Edward, the eldest, became third Duke of Buckingham. At the accession of King Henry VIII., in 1509, he was the greatest and one of the wealthiest nobles in the Kingdom. As such, he stood in the way of Cardinal Wolsey's ambitious projects, who is also stated to have nourished a private grudge against him. The Duke once holding the basin to the King, the Cardinal presumed to dip his hands in it after the King had washed, which so roused the Duke's indignation that he poured the water over the Cardinal's feet. The Duke indiscreetly gave occasion to his enemies by talking of his prospects of succeeding to the Crown, should the King die without children. He was committed to the Tower on the 16th of April, 1521, tried before the Court of the Lord High Steward, which consisted of a select number of Peers, found guilty, and beheaded on May 17th on Tower Hill.

Consequent on his attainder, the Manor of Penshurst, among his other estates, became forfeited to the Crown, where it remained till the reign of King Edward VI., who first granted it to John, Earl of Warwick (afterwards created Duke of Northumberland) who only held it a few months; and then to Sir Ralph Fane, knight.

Sir Ralph Fane had been knighted at the siege of Boulogne in 1544, in the reign of King Henry VIII., and afterwards, had been made a knight banneret for the great valour he had displayed at the battle of Pinkie, where by rallying the cavalry, he had greatly contributed to the success of the Duke of Somerset in defeating the Scotch. In the party factions of the times, he zealously promoted the interests of that Duke, and was accused of being one of his accomplices. He was tried, found guilty and hanged on Tower Hill on the 26th of February, 1552, and his estates reverted to the Crown.

On the 6th of April, of the same year, 1552, by Letters Patent, under the Great Seal, King Edward VI. granted to Sir William Sidney and his heirs for ever, "for good services done in the offices of Chamberlain and Chief Steward of the Household to him, the King, in the lifetime of his Father, King Henry VIII., to his death, etc., all that his Manor of Penshurst with the park,¹ etc., and all Goods, Chattels, Household Stuff, etc., which were then in the Capital Mansion or Palace of Penshurst, which were Sir Ralph Fane's knight, of felony attainted and convicted, deceased."

¹ The Park then contained over 1,200 acres, and had been greatly enlarged by King Henry VIII.

PART II.

PENSHURST: "THE HOME OF THE SIDNEYS."

THE family of Sidney¹ is of French origin, and the first Sidney of whom we have any record in English History is Sir William Sidney, knight, Chamberlain to King Henry II., who came over with him from Anjou, and in 1152, before the accession of that King, had a grant from him of the Manor of Sutton, in Surrey. He died in 1188, and was buried in the Abbey of Lewes, in Sussex. His descendants married, amongst others, into the families of Delamare, D'Abernon, Ashburnham, Clunford, and Brocas. They accumulated large landed estates in Surrey and Sussex. A wood near Aldefold, in Surrey, is called Sidney Wood after them, and a notice of the dower of Isabella Barrington, wife of John Sidney, is dated from Sidney in Aldefold, in the

¹ The name of Sidney is probably derived from St. Sydonius, to whom a Monastery was dedicated in Normandy, where the family are supposed to have had their origin. The name is spelt in old deeds Sidne, Sceddene, Sydenie, and Sedeney. Sir Philip always spelt it Sidney, except in his will, when he spelt it Sydney. The "de" is used until the fourteenth century.



THE INNER COURT.

twelfth year of King Edward III. Later on, they were seated at Cranleigh, in Surrey. In the twenty-fifth year of King Henry VI., William Sidney, Esq., had licence to empark 800 acres of land in Ewhurst and Cranleigh within his Manor of Baynards. By his marriage with Isabel St. John, he acquired the Manor of Kingsham, in Sussex, which, as its name implies, had been a royal residence. His will is dated at Baynards, the Feast of the Assumption, twenty-ninth of King Henry VI., wherein he is described as Lord of Kingsham, by Chichester. He was buried at Cranleigh.

His eldest son, Nicholas, by his second wife, Thomasine, daughter and heir of J. Barrington, married Anne Brandon, daughter of Sir William Brandon, and aunt and co-heir of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who, in 1515, married Mary, Queen of France, daughter of King Henry VII. Nicholas Sidney was succeeded by his son, William, who was one of the Esquires of the Household to King Henry VIII., and, in the second year of the reign of that King, he accompanied Thomas, Lord D'Arcy, who was sent with a force of 1,500 archers into Arragon to assist Ferdinand, King of Arragon and Castile (father-in-law of King Henry VIII.), against the Moors. In 1512, we find him commanding part of the English Fleet. He was present at the burning of the town of Conquest, where he was knighted for his valour; he took part in the sea fight off Brest, in which Sir Edward Howard, Lord High Admiral of England, was drowned. At the Battle of Flodden Field, he led the right wing of the Earl

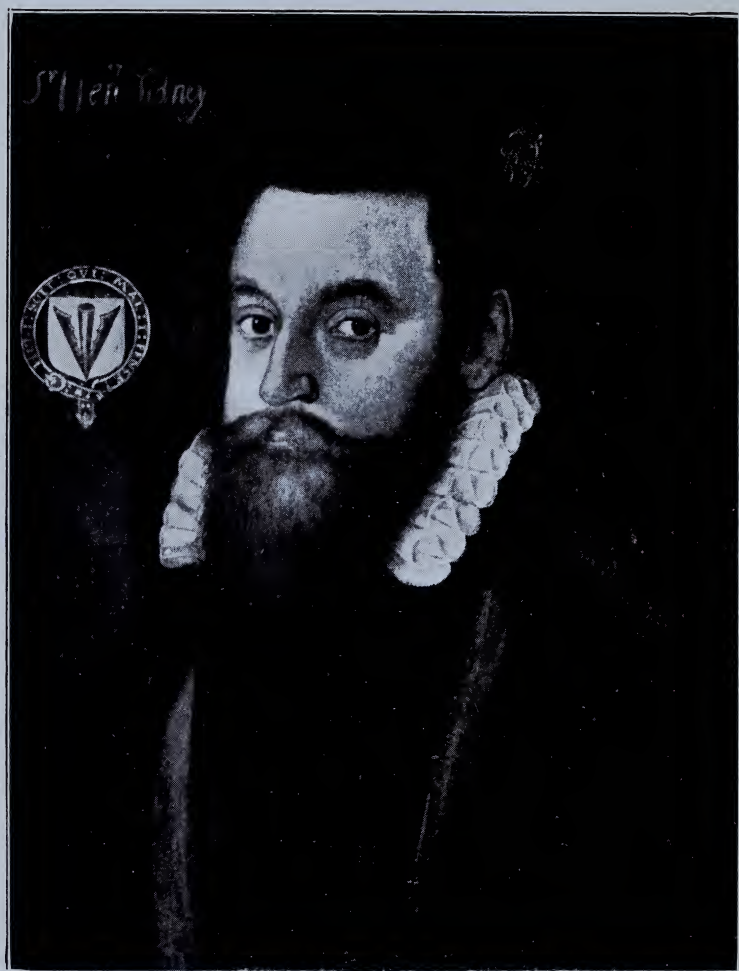
of Surrey's army, and was made a knight banneret, receiving besides an annuity from the King of fifty marks a year for his life.

In 1520, he was in France at the meeting of King Henry and Francis, King of France, on the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

His services, however, both to King Henry VIII. and his son, King Edward VI., will be best recorded by quoting the inscription on a stone tablet, over the Porch of the Gatehouse, at Penshurst, erected by his son, Sir Henry Sidney :

"The most Religious and Renowned Prince Edward *the sixth*, Kinge Of *England, France, and Ireland*, gave this House of *Pencester* with The Mannors, Landes, and Appurtenances thereunto belonginge Unto his trustye, and welbeloved servaunt Syr *William Sydney*, Knight Banneret, serving him from the tyme of his Birth unto his Coronation in the Offices of Chamberlayn and Steward of his Household; in commemoration of which most worthie and famous Kinge *Sir Henrye Sydney*, Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, Lord President of the Councill, established in the Marches of *Wales*, Sonne and Heyre to the aforementioned Syr *William* Caused this Tower to be buylded, and that most excellent Princes Armes to be erected—*Anno Domini*, 1585."

Sir William Sidney did not live long to enjoy his new possessions, for he died at Penshurst not a year after they had been granted to him, and is buried beneath a raised tomb, with a canopy over it, in the Sidney Chapel of the Church at Penshurst. He left large estates in Kent, Sussex, Lincolnshire and Hampshire to his son Henry. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Hugh Pagenham or Pakenham, knight, of Ightham, in Kent, and widow of Thomas FitzWilliam, who had been killed on Flodden Field. Besides his son Henry, he had four daughters, of



SIR HENRY SIDNEY, K.G.

[To face p. 13.]

whom Frances married Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, and was the foundress of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Henry Sidney was born on the 21st of March, 1529, and, from his earliest infancy, had been brought up at Court. As he himself says, "I was, by that most famous King (Henry VIII.) put to his sweet son, Prince Edward, my most dear master, prince and sovereign; my near kinswoman being his only nurse; my father being his chamberlain: my mother his governess; my aunt in such place as, among meaner personages, is called a dry nurse. As the prince grew in years and discretion, so grew I in favour and liking of him."

The young King conferred many marks of distinction on him, and was so attached to him that he rarely gave him leave to be absent from him. On his accession in 1547, he made him one of the four Gentlemen of the Royal Bedchamber, and Hollinshed tells us, in the quaint language of the time, that "for his comeliness of person, gallantness, and liveliness of spirit, virtue, quality, beauty and good composition of body, he was the only odd man and paragon of the Court."

On the 11th of October, 1550, he was knighted with William Cecil (afterwards Lord Burghley). Before he was twenty-one years of age, he was sent as Ambassador into France, and performed his mission there with so much tact, wisdom and judgment that, not long after, we find him again sent on missions, both to France and Scotland.

He was made chief cupbearer to the King, and

held also the offices of otter hunter and chief cypherer, which latter carried with it a stipend of fifty marks a year, and power to appoint a deputy.

On the 29th of March, 1551, Sir Henry married Lady Mary Dudley, eldest daughter of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, Earl of Warwick and Baron Lisle. The marriage took place privately at Esher, and then, according to Sir Henry's Psalter, preserved at Oxford, it was most publicly solemnized in Ely Place, Holborn, in the Whitsun holidays following. She received as her dower the Manor of Halden, near Tenterden, in Kent.

The King gave Sir Henry licence to retain, over and above his menial servants, fifty persons, gentlemen and yeomen, and give them his livery badge or cognizance. This was the Bear and Ragged Staff,¹ the badge of all the Earls of Warwick, which Sir Henry adopted in right of his wife, and which, with the Sidney crest, the Porcupine, is so conspicuous on all parts of the House at Penshurst.

¹ The device of the Bear and Ragged Staff is said to have originated in this wise. The name of Arthgal, the first Earl of Warwick, and one of the Knights of the Round Table, is derived from "Arth," or "Naarth," signifying a bear. One of his descendants, it is said, slew a knight, who encountered him with a tree torn up by the roots. Hence the Bear and Ragged Staff, which is as old at least as the fifteenth century, for in a MS. of that date, the standard of Richard, Earl of Warwick, bore that device. The House of Orleans and the Dukes of Burgundy also bore it.

He was a constant attendant on the King during his last illness, and it was in his arms that the young King breathed his last on the 7th of July, 1553.

After the death of his royal master, Sir Henry Sidney appears to have retired to Penshurst, which he had inherited from his father in the February preceding. He escaped being implicated in the conspiracies of his father-in-law, the Duke of Northumberland, to set Lady Jane Grey, who had married his third son, Lord Guilford Dudley, on the throne, and which ended in the Duke being beheaded on Tower Hill on the 22nd of August, 1553.

His execution was followed on the 12th of February of the following year by those of Lord Guilford Dudley and Lady Jane Grey. She, as she herself said on the scaffold, being condemned "not for grasping a sceptre, but for not having refused it when it was offered her."

Thus, in the space of a few short months, Lady Mary Sidney had to mourn the deaths by violent means of her father, brother and sister-in-law. But the gloom which overshadowed the household at Penshurst was lightened towards the close of this sad year by the birth, on the 30th of November, 1554, of Sir Henry and Lady Mary's first-born child and eldest son; he, who was afterwards described by Camden as "The great glory of his family, the great hope of mankind, the most lively pattern of virtue, the glory of the world." He was christened Philip, after Queen Mary's husband, Philip, King of Spain, whom, in the spring of that year, his father had been

sent to Spain in order to escort him to England for his marriage. A tree was planted in the Park at Penshurst to commemorate his birth, to which Ben Jonson alludes as

“That taller tree which of a nut was set
At his great birth, where all the Muses met,”

and which is mentioned by Waller,

“Go, boy, and carve this passion on the bark
Of yonder tree, which stands the sacred mark
Of noble Sidney’s birth !”¹

Of Philip Sidney’s early days we have no record. They were, no doubt, passed with his brothers and sisters at Penshurst and Ludlow, for in the course of time other sons and daughters were born to Sir Henry and his wife. Margaret, born in 1556, buried at Penshurst the 13th of April, 1558; Elizabeth,² born October, 1560, and to whom Queen Elizabeth stood godmother, died at Kilmainham, in Ireland, on the 8th of November, 1567, and was buried in the Cathedral at Dublin; Mary (afterwards Countess of Pembroke), born at Ticknel, near Bewdley, in Wales, in 1561; Ambrosia (named after her uncle,

¹ This tree was probably the chestnut, which formerly stood a short distance above the oak, now erroneously called Sir Philip Sidney’s oak, and which was either blown down or cut down at the end of the eighteenth century. The oak now standing must have been already an old tree at the date of Sir Philip Sidney’s birth. Its real name is the Bear oak. The retainers wore sprigs of this tree in their hats, when they went to meet the Earls of Leicester at the entrance of the Park at Leigh, on their return from London.

² Mrs. Margaret Sidney’s name is the first of the Sidneys to appear in the Church register at Penshurst.

Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick), died at Ludlow Castle on the 22nd of February, 1574, and whose tomb is to be seen in Ludlow Church; Robert (afterwards the first Sidney, Earl of Leicester, born 1563; and Thomas, born 1569. Little is known of him; he married Margaret Dakyns, and died without issue in 1595.

Sir Henry can have been very little at home in those days. Though "neither liking nor liked as he had been," he was in favour with Queen Mary throughout her reign. She confirmed him in his possession of Penshurst, and also in various offices and appointments which he had held during the reign of her brother, King Edward VI. In April, 1556, he was appointed Vice-Treasurer and General Governor of all the King's and Queen's Revenues in Ireland. He embarked with his brother-in-law, Lord FitzWalter (afterwards Earl of Sussex), Lord Deputy of Ireland, and arrived at Dublin on Whit-Sunday. He took with him £25,000. They marched to Ulster, and defeated the Scotch rebels, Sir Henry killing James MacConnel, a mighty Scots Captain, with his own hand. In December, 1558, the Earl of Sussex returned to England, and Sir Henry was sworn Chief Justice.

In the second year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, he was made Lord President of the Marches of Wales, a post he retained for the rest of his life. He went back to Ireland for a short time, and then took up his official residence at Ludlow Castle, which he did much to restore. His wife and children joined him there, and he set himself to work to organise the

government of the principality and initiate many necessary reforms. In May, 1562, a deputy was appointed, and he was sent as Ambassador to France, and then to Scotland. In Sir Henry Sidney's account books for this year, so many of which are preserved among the MSS. at Penshurst, and which he kept with such scrupulous care, we find that the journey into France cost £240 9s. 5*d.*; that into Scotland, £132 6s. 8*d.*, and he presented the "Skotts Quene" with a gift of three dozen arrows.

On the 14th of May, 1564, he was installed a Knight of the Garter with Charles IX., King of France. Meanwhile affairs in Ireland were growing more and more desperate; and the Queen could think of no statesman so prudent and wise as Sir Henry Sidney to send thither. So, on the 13th of October, 1565, he was appointed Lord Deputy, at a salary of 13*s.* 4*d.* per diem; but it was not till three months later that he landed at Dublin, having been detained by shipwreck, in which he says, "I lost the most of my household stuff and utensils, my wife's whole apparel, and all her jewels, many horses and stable stuff."

He found all the northern and western parts of Ireland in rebellion and in the possession of the rebel, Shane O'Neil. "The Queen," he says, "had nothing in possession in all this large tract of land but the miserable town of Carrickfergus, whose goods he (Shane O'Neil) would take as oft as he listed, and force the poor people to redeem their

own cows with their own wine. With this monstrous, monarchical tyrant I made war, and, in truth, he was mighty, for he had of Scotch and Irish 7,000 men that ware weapons. I had but 1,700 with 300 Berwick soldiers. I advanced into the rebel's country on 22nd September, 1566. I wasted or destroyed all or most part of Tyrone. I passed without boat or bridge the dangerous rivers of Omagh, Darg and Finn. Here the rebel with all his power showed himself unto me, but fight with me he durst not, and made some bravado to my camp, but enter it, he could not."

The Lord Deputy left Tyrone and marched through Tyrconnel, a country seventy miles in length and some forty broad, full of dangerous rivers. On the way he left not one castle in possession of the rebel, nor unrestored to its rightful owner.

He continued his pursuit of O'Neil with such indefatigable perseverance, that he says, his avant-couriers often found "the couch warm, where he lay that night and yet their luck, not to light on him." At last O'Neil's cause grew hopeless. Driven from refuge to refuge, he was betrayed in a drinking-bout, decapitated, and his head, "pickled in a pipkin," sent to Sir Henry.

But his death by no means put an end to the Irish troubles. Though Sir Henry Sidney was one of the wisest and most active Governors Ireland had enjoyed for several reigns, he could not undo the work of many generations of misgovernment. The dominion of the English over Ireland had been

nominally established above four centuries, but their authority had hitherto been little more than a name.

A long-standing feud existed between the Earl of Desmond and his hereditary foe, the Earl of Ormonde, descended from the only family established in Ireland, which had steadily maintained its loyalty to the English crown. The Earl of Ormonde had always been a favourite of the Queen, and now he accused Sir Henry of alleged partiality to the Earl of Desmond. The Queen, with her usual ingratitude, wrote sharp and bitter letters to Sir Henry. He was privately informed that if he wished justice done to him, he must come to Court himself and bring the Earl of Desmond with him. Broken in health and purse, worn out with hard work, he at length obtained leave to return to England in the autumn of 1567, and arrived at Hampton Court with two hundred gentlemen in his train. Then he appears to have gone to Penshurst, and occupied himself in greatly adding to the house.

In the meantime, his son, Philip, had been at Shrewsbury School, having been placed there in November, 1564. No doubt it was chosen on account of its proximity to Ludlow, where Sir Henry and his family were then residing, but it was also one of the best schools in England, and its master, Thomas Ashton, was a man famous in his day for his learning. Already Philip was a person of importance, for as was not uncommon in those days he held Church preferment. It has been mentioned in several biographies that on the 6th of May, 1564

he was collated by the Bishop of St. Asaph to the Church of Whyteford, in Flintshire, and received a stipend of £50 a year. But it seems not to have been noticed that he held two Prebendal stalls as well. Under the Seal of the Bishop of St. David, dated the 14th of January, 1564, Philip Sidney, "Scholar," was inducted into the Prebend of Llang-millo in the Collegiate Church of Brecon, vacant by the deprivation of Master Thomas Bulkeley, clerk, the last incumbent.

On the 3rd of November, 1565, Philip Sidney appoints Henry Tanner, Henry Mynde, and Robert Henson, clerks, his attorneys and proxies to receive on his behalf the Prebend of Great Moreton in the Cathedral Church of Hereford. This deed is endorsed with a note by the said Henry Tanner, clerk, to the effect that he was installed in the said Prebend on behalf of the said Mr. Philip Sidney, on the 9th of November, 1565.

Before he was twelve years old, Philip could write letters in Latin and French.

"Of his growth," wrote his school-fellow, life-long friend and first biographer, Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, "I will report no other wonder but this that though I lived with him, and knew him from a child, yet I never knew him other than a man with such staidness of mind, lovely and familiar gravity, as carried grace and reverence above greater years, his talk ever of knowledge, and his very play tending to enrich his mind, so as even his teacher found something in him to observe and learn above that which have usually read or taught. Which eminence by

nature and industry made his worthy father style Sir Philip in my hearing, though I unseen, *lumen familiæ suæ.*"

Sir Henry Sidney wrote to his son at Shrewsbury, and his first letter to him has been preserved. "Let your first action be the lifting of your mind to Almighty God by hearty prayer, and feelingly digest the words you speak in prayer with continual meditation and thinking of Him to whom you pray and of the matter for which you pray. Be courteous of gesture, and affable to all men. There is nothing that winneth so much with so little cause. Above all things tell no untruth, no not in trifles: the custom of it is naughty. Remember, my son, the noble blood you are descended of by your mother's side, and think that only by virtuous life and good action you may be an ornament to that illustrious family." He concludes, "Your loving father so long as you live in the fear of God."

Amongst the MSS. at Penshurst is a curious account of Thomas Marshall. "Your Lordship's humble servant to the use of my young master, Mr. Philip Sidney, since your honour's departure with my Lady from Westchester towards Ireland, namely, Monday the 4th of December, 1565, until Michaelmas next, 1566." In these nine months Mr. Philip Sidney's expenses amounted to £46 os. 3d.

As every small expense even to the washing of his linen and the cleaning of his boots is put down in this account, we gain a curious insight into his life, when he was just over twelve years old, and at school at Shrewsbury.

The following are a few of the items mentioned:—

“For a yard of cloth to make Mr. Philip a pair of boot-hose, having none but a pair of linen which were too thin to ride in after his disease, 3s. 4d.

“For making these boot-hose and for stitching silk, 1s. 6d.

“For a pen and inkhorn and sealing-wax, 6d.

“For two quires of paper for example books, 8d.

“For an ounce of oil of roses and another of calomel to supple his knee, which he could not ply or bend, 6d.

“For wax to burn in the school a-morning before day, 4d.

“For perfumes to air his chamber with after the young gentlemen were recovered, 12d.”

Several books were also purchased for him, including Mr. Ashton’s “Doing of Tullius’ Offices,” a “Virgil” and Calvin’s “Catechism.”

In August, 1566, he set out on his first visit to his “Uncle of Leicester” at Kenilworth. He is accompanied by Mr. Edward Onslow, Mr. George Leigh, Thomas Marshall, Randall Calcutte, Mr. Onslow’s two men, and Mr. Ashton, his schoolmaster. Thomas Marshall appears to have been alarmed lest his young master’s clothes were not sufficiently grand for Kenilworth, for he meets the Earl of Leicester at Coventry to take counsel with him on Mr. Philip’s apparel. Apparently his uncle was not satisfied with his nephew’s wardrobe, for he vouchsafed to bestow on him so many clothes, including a short damask gown, bordered with velvet laid on with lace, and several leather jerkins, that Philip had to buy a saddle

to put the trunk on containing them, and to borrow a horse.

From Kenilworth, Philip journeyed to Oxford, where he arrived on the night of the 25th August, and had supper with Mr. Bridgwater, one of my Lord of Leicester's Chaplains and Rector of the same College. On the 8th September, they left Oxford and returned to Shrewsbury, stopping at various places on the way.

About Midsummer, 1568, Philip was removed by his father from Master Ashton's school, and placed at Christ Church, Oxford. Sir Henry visited his son there and was created Honorary Master of Arts. He lodged in the same college and took Philip back with him to Ludlow for a short time, before he returned to his onerous post as Lord Deputy of Ireland. Of Philip's studies and life at Oxford there is no record. We know that he had Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, and Edward Dyer as his most intimate friends. There are a couple of letters extant, which he wrote in 1569 to Sir William Cecil, whom at that time he looked upon as his future father-in-law. A close intimacy had long existed between the Cecil and the Sidney families, and a marriage had been mooted between Philip Sidney and Anne, the little daughter of Sir William Cecil and his wife, Mildred, daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke. Sir Henry calls her "his sweet jewel," and desires in a letter to Cecil "to be commended to our daughter, Anne." But for some reason or other, the project was given up, and Anne ultimately married Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, with whom she led a most unhappy life.

Philip stayed at Oxford for three years or more. Early in 1571 a terrible plague broke out in Oxford, and on that account he probably left. He was then a little over sixteen.

Sir Henry, on his return to his post in Ireland, found that unhappy country in the throes of what is generally called "The Butlers' War." He writes to Mr. Secretary Cecil: "I dare affirm there is no servant in Christendom, that endureth greater toil of mind and body than I do, nor that with so little assistance wieldeth so weighty affairs and meeteth with so many and variable accidents." He goes on to say that during six months he had had no answer to any of his letters. "And to knit the knot of the sack of sorrows I feel daily increase of decay in health."

In May, 1570, he wrote from Dublin to Her Majesty's Privy Council, begging that he might be recalled unless he could be duly supported in his work. In the same letter, he requests that his wife may be sent over to him. Probably his ill-health made her presence especially needful. Lady Mary was also most anxious to join her husband, and she and her children, with the exception of Philip, seem to have proceeded to Ireland, and to have remained there seven or eight months. In February, 1571, the family returned to England, and the Lord Deputy followed them in the ensuing month on leave of absence. The Queen received him very coldly, and appointed his brother-in-law, Sir William Fitz-William, Deputy in his stead.

Sir Henry Sidney took up his duties again as Lord President of the Marches of Wales. We read

he found that country in reasonable good state, saving only the County of Monmouth, where murders, robberies, thefts, fighting and quarrelling were rife.

The next four years, from 1571 to 1575, were spent by Sir Henry at Ludlow, Penshurst, and at Court.

Though he was out of favour, Queen Elizabeth could not leave Sir Henry's services totally unrequited. She offered him the empty honour of a title, which she well knew he was too poor to accept. Other Governors of Ireland had made their fortune out of it, Sir Henry lost there what fortune he possessed. He tells us that he returned from each holding of the Lord Deputy's office £3,000 poorer than he left.

The loss of his fortune and health was not the only sacrifice he and his family had been called on to make in Queen Elizabeth's service. In 1562, Lady Mary had caught the small-pox through her close attendance on the Queen's person when she was ill with that disease. "When I went to Newhaven," wrote Sir Henry, "I left her a full fair lady, in mine eye at least, the fairest; and when I returned I found her as foul a lady as a small-pox could make her." The interval between Philip Sidney's leaving Oxford and his going abroad was spent with his father, whom he had not seen for two years. On the 25th of May, 1572, a licence was granted by the Queen to her trusty and well-beloved Philip Sidney, Esquire, to go out of England into parts beyond the seas to remain there during a space of two years for his attaining the knowledge of foreign languages.

Arrived in Paris, the French King, Charles IX., treated him with great distinction, and in consideration of the greatness of the house of Sidney in England, he made him a Gentleman Ordinary of his Chamber, and created him Baron de Sideney. This was on the 9th of August, and on the evening of Sunday, the 24th, took place the massacre of St. Bartholomew. Philip Sidney had taken refuge in the house of Sir Francis Walsingham, who was English Ambassador. Early in September, probably as soon as it was safe to travel, he left Paris, proceeding through Lorraine to Strasburg, and then to Frankfort. There, at the house of Andrew Wechsel, the printer, he made the acquaintance of Hubert Languet, the man who was destined to exercise so much influence over his life. At this time, Languet was in his fifty-fourth year, and was Resident at Frankfort from the Elector of Saxony. He was universally admired for his vast erudition, eloquence and the suavity of his manners. Philip stayed some time at Frankfort in the enjoyment of Languet's company, and in the summer of 1573 accompanied him to Vienna. Then he went to Hungary, and returned to Vienna in October, going on into Italy a month later. Languet parted from him with great regret, and it was arranged they should correspond with each other regularly. A number of Languet's letters are extant, but several of Philip's have been lost. At Venice and in Italy, Philip spent eight months. At Venice, with which he was not so well pleased as he expected, he studied astronomy, and also music to a certain extent, but he never became proficient in the

art. He seems, however, to have been fond of it, and his name is mentioned in connection with perhaps the first music meeting in England of which we have any notice, which took place on the 17th of March, 1583, at Salisbury. Perhaps he inherited his love of music from his mother, who is represented in her portrait holding a mandoline in her hand. At Venice, Philip sat for his portrait to Paolo Veronese, which he had painted expressly for Languet, who, when he received it, had it framed and hung up in a conspicuous place. He remarks in a letter to Philip, "I think, though, that the artist has made you appear too sad and thoughtful, I should have liked it better if your face had had a merrier look." Unfortunately this portrait has been lost. Perhaps Languet gave him in return the portrait of himself which now hangs in the Picture Gallery at Penshurst.

Towards the end of July, 1574, Philip returned to Germany and proceeded with Languet on a visit to Poland. In the winter, they were back again in Vienna, where Philip took lessons in horsemanship under Pugliano, then Esquire of the Emperor's stables. Then Languet and Philip accompanied the Emperor Maximilian to Prague, when he went to preside over the meeting of the Bohemian Diet. There Languet and Philip parted company, and Philip returned to England. He reached London the end of May or beginning of June, 1575, after an absence of over three years. His travels during this time cost his father nearly £700. His own allowance appears to have been only £80 a year.

Philip found his father still in England on his



SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

(BY ZUCCHERO.)

[To face p. 29.]

return, but he was already making preparation to return to Ireland for the third time as Lord Deputy, Sir William FitzWilliam having been recalled.

Philip was at Kenilworth when Queen Elizabeth arrived there on a visit on the 9th of July, and was present during the festivities which followed. From Kenilworth, Philip attended the royal progress to Lichfield, and then to Chartley, the seat of Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex. There no doubt for the first time he met the beautiful Penelope Devereux, the eldest daughter of the Earl of Essex. We do not know whether it was at once or a little later that, under the name of "Stella":

"To her, he vow'd the service of his days
On her, he spent the riches of his wit;
For her, he made hymns of immortal praise
Of only her, he sang, he thought, he writ."

On the 5th of August, Sir Henry received his patent, and a few days later, he took leave of Her Majesty, "kissing her sacred hands, with most gracious and comfortable words from her," and parted from the Court and his family at Dudley Castle. Philip with his mother and sister, Mary, who had been living at Court for some time, remained with the Queen, and attended her back to London.

The following year, Philip was much at Court, and he also paid frequent visits to Durham House, the Earl of Essex's residence in London. There he renewed acquaintance with Penelope Devereux. Her father viewed the growing intimacy with favourable eyes, and a marriage began to be spoken of

between them, he calling Philip "his son by adoption." The Earl of Essex was appointed Earl Marshal of Ireland, and Philip went over with him. He then joined his father and accompanied him to Galway, which was in a state of rebellion; but he was soon recalled thence by the illness of the Earl of Essex, who, lying on his deathbed, greatly desired to see his intended son-in-law. But Philip arrived in Dublin too late to find him alive, and before long he returned to England.

The next year, 1577, saw him hold his first public appointment. He was sent on a special Embassy to offer the Queen's condolences to the Emperor Rodolph of Austria on the death of his mother. During part of this second tour he was accompanied by Languet, and Fulke Greville was his secretary.

Sir Henry, in a letter dated from Dundalk on February 4th of this year, just before Philip had started for abroad, had written to the Earl of Leicester, "I find to my exceeding great comfort, the likelihood of a marriage between my Lord of Pembroke and my daughter." He goes on to say that because of his poverty he will have to borrow the money for his daughter's dowry. He concludes, "Send Philip to me, for never had father more need of his son than I of him."

The marriage of Mary Sidney to the Earl of Pembroke took place in the ensuing April, but Sir Henry could not obtain leave of absence to be present at it.

As soon as Philip returned from his Embassy abroad he paid a visit to his sister at Wilton. Sir

Henry's troubles were increasing ; the Queen charged him with what she called his extravagance, and took up the cause of the Earl of Ormonde. Philip went to Oatlands to the Queen, and so successfully refuted the charges against his father, that the Queen was forced to express herself satisfied.

On New Year's Day, 1578, Philip was at Court and presented the Queen with the curious gift of a cambric chemise, wrought with black work, and a pair of ruffs set with spangles. In return the Queen gave him some gilt plate, weighing twenty-two ounces. In April, the first of Philip's known compositions was performed at Wanstead, in Epping Forest, which the Earl of Leicester had lately bought, and where he entertained the Queen during her summer progress.

From some cause or another about this time, Philip seems to have fancied that some private affair, which he had written to his father, had leaked out, and he hastily jumped to the conclusion that Edmund Molineux, his father's secretary, was the culprit. With that impetuosity of temper which was one of his failings, he wrote him an angry and ill-considered letter, threatening to thrust his dagger into him.

Molineux wrote back a most dignified reply, and Philip must have found out that his accusations were false, and have apologised, for the old friendship was renewed between them, and Philip left him an annuity in his will.

In the autumn of the same year, Sir Henry finally resigned his office in Ireland, and returned to

England. He, his wife and Philip seem to have passed part of the winter with the Queen at Hampton Court. In January, 1579, Prince Casimir came over to England and Languet accompanied him. Languet spent three weeks in England, and visited Penshurst. This was the last time he and Philip met. Languet died in 1581, at Antwerp.

The Duc d'Anjou renewed his suit for the hand of Queen Elizabeth. The Court was divided into two parties, and it has been surmised that the jealousy of these two factions may have had something to do with the quarrel, which took place in September, between Philip and the Earl of Oxford, the husband of Anne Cecil. By reason of its political associations this dispute of Philip's, though insignificant in itself, appears to have acquired an European notoriety. After it, Philip took bolder ground, and wrote a letter to the Queen, protesting against an alliance with the Duc d'Anjou, and stating his reasons. The Queen was very angry, and Philip was banished from Court. He retired to his sister's, at Wilton. Philip and his sister, Mary, seem always to have been greatly attached to each other. They had many tastes in common, and now they began their joint translation of the Psalms of David, and Philip commenced the writing of his "*Arcadia*," a pastoral medley, which, though the fashion of it has passed away, and, marred as it is, by its faults of extravagant language and affectation, is yet, in many parts strangely beautiful, shadowing forth as it does his tenderness and child-like simplicity of heart.

In the autumn, Philip was again in London at his

Uncle's, Leicester House, and from thence is dated a long letter addressed to his brother, giving "Sweet Robin" much good advice on the study of history, mathematics and horsemanship, not forgetting also to warn him to have a care of his diet, and to hold up his heart in courage and virtue. "Truly," he says, "great part of my comfort is in you."

On New Year's Day, 1581, Philip presented the Queen with three characteristic presents, a whip, to show he had been scourged, a chain, to chain him to Her Majesty, and a heart of gold, to show he was now entirely hers. Perhaps it was on this occasion, as a mark of her forgiveness, that she presented him with the portrait of herself, by Zuccherò, which is still at Penshurst.

The Queen's marriage with the Duc d'Anjou appeared now to be definitely decided on; and on the 16th of April there arrived in London an Embassy, headed by Francis of Bourbon, to make arrangements for it. Opposition to the match had been tried in vain, and her courtiers, finding they could not stop it, decided that the only course to pursue would be to acquiesce in it. Philip played a conspicuous part in the entertainments which followed, and joined in a grand assault-at-arms.

It was most probably about this time that the marriage of Lord Rich with Penelope Devereux took place at her guardian's, the Earl of Huntingdon's house in Newcastle. What had caused the breaking off of her engagement to Philip has never been made clear. She herself said many years afterwards that she was married to Lord Rich by force. After her

marriage, as before, Philip continued to celebrate her in verse as "Stella," and his love sonnets comprised in "Astrophel and Stella," are amongst the finest in the English language.

The Duc d'Anjou came over in November to plead his own cause, and when he left London on the 1st of February, 1582, Philip was amongst the gentlemen who escorted him as far as Antwerp. Early in March, Philip returned to England.

Lord Grey de Wilton had been appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland on the resignation of Sir Henry. He was recalled in August, 1582, and again Sir Henry was urged to resume his post for the fourth time. But he declared he would not go unless his son, Philip, was allowed to go with him. "I am now fifty-four years of age, toothless and trembling, being £5,000 in debt, yea, and £30,000 worse than I was at the time of my most dear King and master, King Edward VI. I have not from the crown of England of my own getting so much ground as I can cover with my foot. All my fees amount not to 100 marks a year; *dura est conditio servorum.*" Philip was then in high favour with the Queen, and she would not let him leave her. So the project fell through, and Sir Henry did not go to Ireland again. Philip was much with his father at this time, and at the end of the year he paid a visit to Wilton, and then was again at Court. On the 1st of January, 1583, he was made a knight, and is henceforth known as Sir Philip Sidney, knight, of Penshurst.

Sir Philip had for some years taken great interest in the discovery of America by Frobisher, and in the

spring of 1583 many projects of colonization were talked of, and now he received from the Queen almost the first charter for going out as a colonist.

In September, Sir Philip married Frances, daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham. She was then about sixteen, and Sir Philip twenty-nine. Of the preliminaries of this marriage little is known. Sir Philip must have been acquainted with Mistress Frances all her life. A connection existed between them, a sister of Sir Francis having married a first cousin of Sir Henry Sidney. Sir Henry speaks "of the joyful love and great liking between our most dear and sweet children, whom God bless." He begs to be "commended most heartily to my good lady cousin and sister, your wife, and bless and buss our sweet daughter."

As usual the Queen did not approve of the marriage, but "she passed over the offence," and two and a-half years later she rode up from Richmond to London on purpose to be godmother to Sir Philip's daughter, who was called Elizabeth after her, and she made a present of one hundred shillings to the nurse and midwife. During this time, Sir Philip seems to have been a great deal at Walsingham House and Barn Elms with his wife's parents.

In the autumn of 1584, Sir Philip sat in the House of Commons, where he helped to forward a Bill for Raleigh's expedition to Virginia. It was his cherished wish to join some private enterprise to America, and in the summer of 1585, his project took definite shape. He "won thirty gentlemen of great blood and state here in England, every man to sell £100

worth of land to fit out a fleet." The plan was kept secret. Sir Francis Drake was to start first and Philip was to follow him; but the plan miscarried. The Queen would not let Philip go, and it was decided that instead he should go to the Netherlands under his uncle, the Earl of Leicester. A treaty had just been concluded between the Queen and the Netherlands, by which she had promised to send over an army to help the Dutch in their struggle against Spain; they to pay all expenses and the Queen holding the towns of Flushing and Brill, and the Castle of Rammekins as a security for the liquidation of the debt.

Sir Philip held Her Majesty's Commission as Governor of Flushing, and set out on Tuesday the 16th of November. He was followed three weeks later by the Earl of Leicester, who took with him Thomas Sidney, Sir Philip's youngest brother.

Sir Philip had no easy task, hampered as he was by the Earl of Leicester's incompetency as General, by want of troops and money, and the Queen was ready to interpret everything to his disadvantage. The campaign dragged slowly on. Lady Sidney joined her husband at Flushing.

Besides public anxieties, Philip had his own private sorrows. On the 5th of May his father died at the Bishop's Palace at Worcester. He was nearly fifty-seven years of age and during six-and-twenty years had been Lord President of Wales. His body was brought with great pomp from the Cathedral at Worcester, by way of London, to Penshurst and there interred. His heart was transferred to Ludlow

and deposited in an urn by the side of his daughter, Ambrosia.

Fulke Greville says of him: "Sir Henry was a man of excellent natural wit, large heart and sweet conversation, and such a Governor as sought not to make an end of the State in himself, but to plant his own end in the prosperity of the country. Witness his sound establishments, both in Wales and Ireland, where his memory is worthily grateful to this day." Yet Sir Henry has received scant recognition of his services, either at the hands of his contemporaries, or of posterity. No monument has been erected to his memory. His name has been overshadowed by that of his more famous son.

He built the Gatehouse at Penshurst, and the whole façade of the house looking north and west, as far as the Buckingham Building. The house here forms three sides of a quadrangle, and is called the President's Court, from the inscription on the tower at the end:

"Sir Henrie Sydney Knight of the
Most Noble Order of the Garter,
Lorde President of Wales, and the
Marches of the same. One of the
Qvenes Maiesties most honorable
Privye Counsell and Late Lorde
Deputie Generall of the Realme
Of Ireland, Anno Domini 1579."

The Gatehouse and a small portion of brickwork next to it, another small portion, adjoining the Buckingham Building, and the tower at the end, on which is the inscription, have not been touched, but the

remainder of Sir Henry Sidney's building has been partly rebuilt and greatly modernised.

Tradition has it that Queen Elizabeth visited Penshurst and was entertained in the State Rooms, one of them being called Queen Elizabeth's Withdrawing Room, and that it was furnished for her with the gilded chairs and couch, and the hangings on the walls of *appliqué* work, which it now contains. More likely this furniture came from some house of Sir Henry's in London, and had been there used by the Queen. The crystal chandeliers in the Ball-room are said to have been presented by Queen Elizabeth to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. They came from Venice, and were the first crystal chandeliers seen in England.

In his will, dated the 8th January, 1552, Sir Henry constitutes his eldest son, Philip, his sole executor. He leaves certain properties in Lincoln and Yorkshire to his two sons, Robert and Thomas. All his plate, furniture, etc., at Penshurst, and the residue of his estate, are left to his son Philip.

Affairs in the Netherlands were progressing most unfavourably. On the 7th of July, Sir Philip achieved his one success in the campaign in the taking of the town of Axel, a strong place in Zealand, a few miles from the southern bank of the Scheldt.

A fresh domestic grief befell Sir Philip. On the 9th of August he lost his mother, of whom he had said, "that, for his own part, he had had nothing but light from her." We may well believe that grief for the death of the husband, to whom she was so tenderly devoted, hastened her own end. During

their thirty-five years of married life we read of nothing but mutual love and esteem on either side. "Old Lord Harry and his old Moll" had hard measure meted out to them, but they never lost confidence in each other. Edmund Molineux wrote, "She ended this life and left the world most confidently, and to God, no doubt, most gloriously, to the exceeding comfort of all of them, which are not few, that loved or honoured her, or the great and renowned house whereof she was descended."

She was interred in the Sidney Chapel by the side of her husband. A monument was erected to her memory, but no trace of it remains.

When Sir Philip received the news of his mother's death, he little knew that he himself had only a few more weeks to live. He was now, on the 4th of September, before Zutphen, and he wrote to Sir Francis Walsingham, saying, "Zutphen can now little harm us, for it is surrounded on every side." The Earl of Leicester had received intelligence that a large quantity of provisions was waiting a few miles up the river, ready to be smuggled into the town at the first opportunity. He was determined to prevent this. Hence arose the battle. The morning of Thursday, the 22nd of September, was very misty, so misty that nothing could be seen ten paces off. Sir Philip, with a party of about two hundred horsemen, advanced to the very walls of the town. Then suddenly the fog dispersed, and Sir Philip and his little company were exposed to view, and found themselves in great danger. Very gallantly they fought. Sir Philip's horse was killed under him.

Having gone into the field stoutly armed, as he should be, he had encountered Sir William Pelham, the Lord Marshal of the Camp, more lightly armed than he himself. Not to be outdone by him in courage, he foolishly threw off his cuisses. Though thus exposed, he mounted a fresh horse and joined in a second charge. Then there was a third, joined in by all the Englishmen on the field. In the last charge Sir Philip was among the wounded. A shot from a concealed musket entered his left leg at some distance above the knee, and, cleaving the bone, glanced upwards far into the thigh. His fresh horse, being untrained, galloped away with him, and Fulke Greville writes, "so forced him to forsake the field, but not his back, as the noblest and fittest bier to carry a martial commander to his grave. For which sad progress, passing along by the rest of the army where his uncle, the general, was, and being thirsty with excess of bleeding, he called for drink, which was presently brought him; but as he was putting the bottle to his mouth he saw a poor soldier carried along, who had eaten his last at the same feast, ghastly casting up his eyes at the bottle, which Sir Philip perceiving, took it from his mouth before he drank and delivered it to the poor man with these words, 'Thy necessity is greater than mine.' And when he had pledged this poor soldier he was presently carried to Arnheim, where the principal surgeons of the camp attended for him."

"How God will dispose of him, I know not," wrote the Earl of Leicester next day to Sir Thomas Heneage; "but I must needs greatly fear the worst,

the blow is so dangerous a place, and so great. Yet did I never hear of any man that did abide the dressing and setting of his bone better than he did. I would you had stood by to hear his most loyal speeches to Her Majesty, his constant mind to the cause, his loving care over me and his most resolute determination for death, not a jot appalled for his blow, that is the most grievous that ever I saw with such a bullet, riding so long, a mile and a-half, upon his horse ere he came to the camp, and not ceasing to speak still of Her Majesty ; being glad if his hurt and death might in any way honour her, for hers he was whilst he lived, and God's he was sure to be if he died."

For nearly a month Philip lay at Arnheim. Fulke Greville says the surgeons had at first such confident hope of his recovery that their joy overcame their discretion, and they spread the glad intelligence to the Queen and all his noble friends in England, where it was received, not as private, but as public, news.

It is doubtful whether Sir Philip himself ever shared the hopes of his friends. On the last day of September he sent for his friend, George Giffard, a learned divine and famous preacher, with whom he held long and serious conversation.

His wife, as soon as she heard of the disaster, had hurried to Arnheim from Flushing. His brother Robert, too, came from Rammekins, the Government of which had been assigned him by Sir Philip.

Fulke Greville relates that with long and constant lying, his shoulder-bones were worn through the

skin. . One morning, on lifting the clothes, he smelt a noisome savour, differing from oils and salves. This he rightly guessed to be the commencement of mortification in the limb. He did not fear to die, he said, but he was afraid lest the pangs of death should rob him of his understanding. This, however, was not the case. "Not long after, he lift up his eyes and hands, uttering these words, 'I would not change my joy for the empire of the world.'"

On the evening of Sunday, the 16th of October, after he had been ill for twenty-four days, he suddenly raised himself in bed, and called for a piece of paper, on which he wrote in Latin the following note to his friend, John Wier, the chief physician of the Duke of Cleves, and the famous pupil of Cornelius Agrippa.

"My dear friend Wier, come, come. I am in peril of my life and long for you. Neither living nor dead, shall I be ungrateful. I cannot write more, but beg you urgently to hurry. Farewell, Your PH. SIDNEY."

But alas! the physician did not arrive in time. Several days passed away. He had made his will on September the 30th. This he now caused to be read over to him, adding a codicil, in which he remembered many friends and servants. He appointed as his executrix "My most dear and loving wife, Dame Frances Sidney," to whom he left one-half of all his manors, lands, etc. He bequeathed to his daughter, Elizabeth, £4,000 for her portion, and he authorised Sir Francis Walsingham and his brother, Robert, to sell as much of his land in the

counties of Lincoln, Suffolk or Southampton, as would pay all his debts, as well as those of his father, beseeching them to hasten the same, and to pay the creditors with all possible speed.

Before daybreak on Monday, George Giffard came to the bedside and asked Sir Philip how he did. "I feel myself more weak," he answered. About noon it became evident the end was approaching. His brother, Robert, gave way to his grief. Sir Philip, in taking leave of him, gently admonished him in these words: "Love my memory, cherish my friends. Their faith to me may assure you they are honest. But above all, govern your will by the Will and Word of your Creator. In me, beholding the end of this World, with all her vanities." Then he begged those around him to lead his brother away.

A little later in the day, his friends asked him for a fresh token of his confidence in God's mercy. He could not speak, but straightway raised both his hands, and placed them together on his breast, and held them there in the attitude of prayer. After a few minutes more he had ceased to breathe.

Eight days after Sir Philip Sidney's death the Earl of Leicester wrote to Sir Francis Walsingham: "Sir, the grief I have taken for the loss of my dear son and yours would not suffer me to write sooner of those ill news unto you, especially being in so good hope, so very little time before, of his good recovery. But he is with the Lord, whose will be done." He continues, "your sorrowful daughter and mine is with me here at Utrecht, till she may recover some strength, for she is wonderfully

overthrown through her long care since the beginning of her husband's hurt."

All England went into mourning. "It was accounted a sin," we are told, "for any gentleman of quality to appear at Court or City in any light or gaudy apparel."

On Monday, the 24th of October, Sir Philip's body, having been embalmed, was removed from Arnheim to Flushing, and remained there another week. It was then conveyed to the water's edge, followed by 1,200 English soldiers, walking three abreast, trailing their swords and muskets in the dust, and by a vast concourse of Dutch burghers. It was placed on board *The Black Pinnace*, Sir Philip Sidney's own vessel, all draped in black, and was accompanied out of the port by other vessels, also in mourning. On Friday, the 5th of November, the mournful cargo was landed at Tower Hill on the Thames, and thence borne to a house in the Minories, where it waited three months more for interment. The reason for this delay is curious. Immediately after his father's death, Sir Philip had sent Sir Francis Walsingham a power of attorney to sell a portion of his land to satisfy his poor creditors. But nothing was done before his death. Then, when Sir Philip's will reached England, some informalities were found in it touching the sale of the land. Sir Francis Walsingham writes to the Earl of Leicester abroad, saying, that it greatly afflicted him, "that a gentleman, that hath lived so unspotted a reputation, and had so great cares to see all men satisfied, should be so exposed to the outcry of his creditors. This hard

estate of this noble gentleman, maketh me stay to take order of his burial until your lordship return." If this were intended as a hint, that the Earl of Leicester should defray the expenses of his nephew's funeral, it was of no avail. It was commonly reported that, in the end, Sir Francis Walsingham paid the funeral expenses out of his own pocket, and had to wait until he had saved sufficient money to do so.

At length, on Thursday, the 16th of February, 1587, the funeral took place, and no pains were spared to make the pageant worthy of the illustrious dead. The engraved roll of the funeral procession, drawn and invented by Thomas Lant, is preserved at Penshurst; and as representatives from every class of society in England attended the funeral, the roll is a most interesting study of the costumes of the period. More than seven hundred mourners took part in the procession. The streets through which it passed were so crowded that it was difficult to make way for it.

The coffin was covered with velvet, and the corners of the pall were held by four gentlemen, "his dear loving friends," amongst whom were Mr. Fulke Greville and Mr. Edward Dyer. Behind the coffin walked the chief mourner, Mr. Robert Sidney.

At the end of the roll, we are told "the Great West door of St. Paul's, where the mourners entered, was kept by some of Her Majesty's bodyguard, and when the sermon was ended, the offertory and other ceremonies finished, and his body interred, the soldiers in the churchyard did by a double volley, give unto his famous life and death a martial Vale."

The Cathedral was draped with black, and on the canopy, under which the coffin rested in front of the Altar, was written, "Blessed are the Dead, that die in the Lord," which formed the text of his funeral sermon. He was interred in the Lady Chapel behind the Altar, all of which was, of course, destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

I cannot do better, in closing this brief sketch of Sir Philip Sidney's life, than to quote the words of Camden, "Rest then in Peace, Oh, Sidney, we will not celebrate your memory with tears but admiration; whatever we loved in you; whatever we admired in you, still continues, and will continue in the memories of man, the revolutions of ages, and the annals of time. Many, as inglorious, and ignoble, are buried in Oblivion, but Sidney shall live to all Posterity, for as the Grecian poet has it, 'Virtue's beyond the reach of Fate.'"

A few letters, some signatures to bonds and bills, and a lock of his hair of a reddish-brown tint are amongst the treasures preserved at Penshurst. In the collection of armour is the helmet surmounted by the porcupine carried before his coffin.

Besides the "Arcadia" and "Astrophel and Stella," Sir Philip wrote the "Defence of Poesy" and various miscellaneous verse, as well as two or three translations from the French. When on his deathbed, he composed a poem called "La Cuisse ormpue," which has been lost.

His only child, Elizabeth, married Roger, Earl of Rutland, and died, without issue, when she was thirty, and her uncle, Sir Robert Sidney, became

her heir-at-law. Dame Frances Sidney married again in 1590, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex. After his execution in 1601, she became the wife of Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanricarde. There is a portrait of her with her daughter, Elizabeth, as a child, and another of her in a curious widow's dress, holding a miniature of her first husband in her hand.

Failing the birth of a posthumous son, Sir Philip Sidney had bequeathed his estates to his next brother, Robert, who, at the time of Sir Philip's death, was nearly twenty-three years of age. Like Sir Philip, he too had been sent abroad to finish his education, and had been placed under the careful eye of Hubert Languet.

In one of Sir Henry's letters to his son at Strasburg he writes thus: "Our Lord bless you, my sweet boy. Perge, perge, my Robin, in the filial fear of God, and the loving direction of your most loving brother. . . . Pray daily, speak nothing but truly; do no dishonest thing for any respect. Love Mr. Languet with reverence, unto whom in most hearty manner commend me." Robert was very extravagant, a taste he shared with his eldest brother, and his father had frequent cause to reprimand him on this account. He appears always to have been of a martial disposition and to have thirsted for a soldier's life. He writes to his father, from Prague, that his eldest brother had written, recommending that if there were any "good warrs" he should go to them. "As yet," he adds sorrowfully, "I have heard of none." He seems to have profited by his stay on the Continent, for he became

proficient in the German and Dutch languages, and Languet says, he made great progress in Latin.

On September 23rd, 1584, he married, at St. Donats, in Glamorganshire, the house of her cousin and guardian, Sir Edward Stradling, Barbara Gamage, the heiress of Coity Castle, in the same county. This estate had come to her through her ancestor, Sir Payne de Turbervile, the third of the twelve knights who came into Wales with Robert FitzHamon when he conquered Glamorganshire. It was no wonder that a young lady of such birth and fortune (for she was accounted one of the wealthiest heiresses of the day) should have had many suitors for her hand. Most likely Robert had made her acquaintance at Ludlow, when he was there with his father. The courtship seems to have been secretly favoured by the Earl and Countess of Pembroke, though Sir Walter Raleigh had sent a special message from Court, warning the guardian of Barbara, that no marriage was to be contracted without the Queen's consent. Disregarding the warning, the marriage was solemnized in the presence of the Earl of Pembroke and many others. And only just in time, for a few hours after the ceremony had taken place, a messenger from Queen Elizabeth arrived in hot haste, bearing the Royal command that no marriage should take place and that Robert Sidney was to return forthwith to London.

This marriage, which had taken place under such romantic circumstances, seems on the whole to have turned out better than might have been expected from the proverb, "Marry in haste and repent at

leisure." Barbara Gamage, though possessed of an exacting disposition and somewhat shrewish temper, was really a devoted wife and mother and a clever and capable woman. During her husband's long and frequent absences abroad, she managed his affairs at home with much ability, and he reposed the utmost confidence in her. Whenever he was absent he wrote her long letters, addressing her as "Sweet-hart" and "Sweet wench," and signing himself, "Your assured loving husband."

Of her replies to these letters, none have been preserved. He occasionally mentions having received a letter from her, but most generally any questions were answered by the steward, Rowland Whyte, who kept Sir Robert *au fait* of all domestic events.

We learn from Ben Jonson, in his Ode on "Penshurst," that she was a notable housekeeper, and could not be taken unawares :—

"That found King James, when hunting late this way
With his brave son, the Prince, they saw the fires
Shine bright on every hearth, as the desires
Of thy Penates had been set on flame
To entertain them ; or the country came,
With all their zeal, to warm their welcome now.
What (great, I will not say, but) sudden cheer
Didst thou then make 'em. And what praise was heap'd
On thy good lady, then ! Who therein reap'd
The just reward of her high huswifry,
To have her linen, plate and all things nigh,
When she was far : and not a room, but drest,
As if it had expected such a guest."¹

¹ A room in the Gatehouse, over the Porch, goes by the name of King James' Room.

The year after his marriage, Robert was at last able to gratify his military instincts, and to embark in a "good warr."

He set out with the Earl of Leicester on the 8th December, 1585, for Flushing, where Sir Philip had preceded him. He was with his brother at the engagement at Zutphen, and for his valour on the field of battle was knighted by his uncle. We have seen how he was present at his brother's deathbed and at his funeral.

In 1588, he was constituted Governor of Flushing, a post he held for twenty-eight years.

In the autumn of this year, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, died in the fifty-seventh year of his age. He was buried with his ancestors in the Beauchamp Chapel in St. Mary's Church, at Warwick. He left no legitimate issue, and bequeathed to his beloved godson and nephew, Sir Robert Sidney, some farms in Kent. His sword, decorated with the Bear and Ragged Staff on the hilt, is in the collection of armour at Penshurst. It is mentioned in the inventory of Kenilworth, which is at Penshurst.

His brother, Ambrose Dudley, the "good" Earl of Warwick, died in 1589, without issue, and Sir Robert Sidney then became the heir-at-law of his two uncles, and the sole representative of the Dudleys.

Many are the glimpses we gain into the social life of these times from the letters of Rowland Whyte, the steward to Sir Robert Sidney. Not only did the former keep him informed of all domestic affairs, but he keeps him up in the political life of the day, and



BARBARA GAMAGE, COUNTESS OF LEICESTER, AND HER CHILDREN.

adds many little bits of gossip, which he had picked up about Court.

Of the Earl and Countess of Pembroke we have constant mention. The two families lived on terms of the greatest intimacy, and Sir Robert and his wife had lodgings in Baynard's Castle, on St. Paul's Wharf in London, and made it their home, whenever they went to London. One request of the Countess of Pembroke to her brother, when he was at Flushing, sounds rather strange. She begs him to send her some of the excellent tobacco which she knows he has.

On the 1st of December, 1595, the third son, Robert, is born. A few days before my lady was taken ill of the measles, and the child is also full of the measles. "But they keep him very warm and he cries lustily." The christening is delayed, because Lady Rich, who was to be godmother, had a gathering on her forehead.

"My Lady Huntingdon says, that the Queen often speaks of the children, and said she never saw any child come towards her with a better grace than Mrs. Katherine did." Then again, we hear that "Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Katherine do profit much in their books. Mr. William dances a galliard in his doublet and hose, Mrs. Philip can go alone." They are all brought before us in the picture, which was painted about this time, of Lady Sidney and her six eldest children, who, in their quaint costumes of hoops and ruffs, look like little old men and women.

The end of the year 1596 another child is born, and is christened on St. David's Day, the 25th of

February, 1597. "My young master says his little sister shall wear a leek the day of our christening. She was called Bridget, and Mrs. Bess Sidney, Sir Philip's daughter, is godmother."

Young Mr. Robert seems to have been a special favourite with R. Whyte. He says, writing from Baynard's Castle: "All your children are in health; the three greater and little Mr. Robert were at Court, and in the Presence at St. George's Feast, where they were much respected. I brought up Mr. Robert, when the knights were at dinner, who played the wag so prettily and boldly, that all took pleasure in him, but above the rest my Lord Admiral, who gave him sweetmeats, and prated with his honour beyond measure."

Mrs. Philip attended on the Queen, and put her father to an extraordinary great charge beyond the £300 a year which each of his daughters cost him. Even in those days there seem to have been domestic troubles. We learn that the cook gave Lady Sidney much discontentment by his intolerable obstinacy and malapert behaviour. So Rowland Whyte, who was never at a loss, clapped him in the stocks until he had submitted himself unto his mistress. "The servants from Kent will not stay in London above three days, and then they steal home again." Lady Sidney delighted in Penshurst, for Rowland Whyte writes: "My Lady takes great pleasure in this place, and surely I never saw a sweeter. All things finely prospering about it. The garden is well kept."

On the 4th May, 1606, Sir Robert Sidney was

advanced to the dignity of Viscount Lisle. In 1616, he was relieved of the Governorship of Flushing. He had always looked upon his post there as banishment, and he seems to have greatly preferred living at Court, where he was Chamberlain to Queen Anne. On his return, he was installed a Knight of the Garter at Windsor, and two years later was created Earl of Leicester.

Towards the end of the year 1616 took place the marriage of Lord Leicester's now only surviving son, Robert, to Lady Dorothy Percy, eldest daughter of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland. Lady Leicester presented the bride with a "cupboard of plate."

Lady Dorothy possessed much of the beauty of her more famous sister, Lucy, Countess of Carlisle, and is described as being a woman of wit, good breeding and excellent economy, but of an imperious and haughty temper.

Lady Leicester lived to see the birth of her son's two eldest children, Dorothy and Philip. Her death was somewhat sudden, as we gather from a letter written to her on the 2nd of May, 1621, by her husband from Whitehall, at which time she was apparently in her usual good health. On the margin of this letter is written by Lord Leicester this laconic note: "Lady Leicester was buried the 26th of this May, 1621." Her body was embalmed at the cost of £100, and she was buried in the Sidney Chapel.

Four months later Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke, died. She was noted for her beauty and the literary talents and tastes which she possessed in

common with her brother, Sir Philip Sidney. To her he dedicated the "Arcadia," which he wrote at her desire. She was in point of time the first English authoress of repute. Spenser celebrated her in verse as "Urania."

On her was written the celebrated Epitaph, generally ascribed to Ben Jonson, but more probably written by William Browne, the author of "Britannia's Pastorals":—

"Underneath this sable hearse
Lies the subject of all verse,
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother,
Death! ere thou hast slain another
Learned, fair and good as she,
Time shall throw his dart at thee!"

There is a portrait of her by Marc Geeraert.

After the death of Lady Leicester, Lord and Lady Lisle lived principally at Penshurst, and there most of their children were born, but we search the registers in vain for the name of Algernon. From some writings at Penshurst, it seems clear he was born at Baynard's Castle, the end of November or beginning of December, 1622. In a book of accounts of the following year occurs this entry: "For the churching of my Lady and the christening of Mr. Algernon, 15/-."

There is little more to record of Robert Sidney, Earl of Leicester. He outlived the King, who had raised him to such high honours and bestowed on him so many marks of his favour, by some fifteen months. He attended the coronation of King Charles I., and the summons is still preserved.





PENSHURST PLACE (FROM THE GARDEN).

On the 25th of April before his death, he married, secondly, Sarah, daughter and heir of William Blount, and widow of Sir Thomas Smythe. He died at Penshurst on the 13th of July following, and was buried there.

Lord Leicester built the Picture Gallery on which are to be seen the Sidney and the Gamage crests, the Porcupine and Griffin, and the brick walls round the garden, also the stables, the cost of all which came to £600. There is a picture of him by Van Somer in his coronation robes. An ebony cabinet decorated with bas-reliefs in silver and panels by Polemberg, Berghem, Both and Peters, is shown as having been presented to him by King James I.

At the time of his father's death Robert, Lord Lisle, was thirty years of age. He had served in the Low Countries and had already made his mark in Parliament as a man of sound judgment, eminent abilities and great learning, well versed in the politics of the day.

For some years after he had succeeded to the title he lived quietly at Penshurst until he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the King of Denmark in 1632. After his return from this Embassy he spent the next four years at Penshurst. He occupied himself with his garden and looking after his estates. No doubt it was he who planted the Lime Walk as an avenue leading from the house to the stables, which stood in the meadow below the garden close to the old fishpond. With the exception of two or three trees, which have been blown down, the Lime Walk is still perfect. He kept a very strict household,

and drew up a set of rules for the servants to be observed in his house. To ensure punctuality he put up a bell on which is the inscription, "Robert, Earle of Leycester, 1647," which is still to be seen.

Hitherto the Sidney family had had no London house, but now the King granted Lord Leicester a plot of ground near Covent Garden, on part of which he erected a large house called Leicester House. There are two pictures of it at Penshurst. This house remained in the possession of the family till towards the end of the eighteenth century; not long afterwards it was pulled down.

In 1636, Lord Leicester was appointed Ambassador to the King of France, and he took with him his two elder sons, Philip and Algernon.

Lady Leicester kept up a lively correspondence with her husband in Paris, and her letters are remarkable, not only for their shrewd wit, but also as reflecting the manners and customs of the day. There are frequent enquiries after Algernon. She also writes much of her daughter "Doll," as Dorothy was affectionately called, and of the suitors for her hand.

Lady Dorothy had been early celebrated in verse, under the name of "Sacharissa," by the poet Edmund Waller. That he ever assumed the position of a lover, or looked on her in any other light than as the subject of his song, there is no reason to believe.

At last a marriage was arranged between her and Henry, Lord Spencer, afterwards created Earl of Sunderland, and took place at Penshurst on the 20th



PHILIP, LORD LISLE, ROBERT AND ALGERNON SIDNEY.

(BY DOBSON.)

of July, 1639. Their happy married life was of brief duration, for Lord Sunderland fell at the battle of Newbury. After the marriage, Lady Leicester joined her husband in Paris, and there was born in 1641, Henry, afterwards Earl of Romney, the thirteenth and youngest child of Lord and Lady Leicester.

Lord Leicester returned from his Embassy in 1641. He says in his Journal: "All that winter I stayed in London till the 25th of July, 1642. . . . The troubles increasing in the kingdom, which was now divided into the King's quarters and the Parliament's quarters; from Wales, I could not receive my rents after one Lady Day, which was 1642, which was in the King's quarter."

The King appointed him Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He writes to his sister-in-law, the Countess of Carlisle, "The Parliament bids me go presently; the King commands me to stay till he despatch me;" so Lord Leicester ended in not going at all, but he despatched thither his own regiment under the command of his eldest son. In this regiment Algernon Sidney, then in his eighteenth year commanded a troop of horse.

On the return of the two brothers to England, they both declared themselves for the Parliament, and set themselves to promote the popular cause. Lord Lisle received from the Parliament £1,000 for his services in Ireland. The King relieved the Lord Leicester of the office of Lieutenant-Governor. He never again held any public office, and kept himself aloof from politics as much as he could. He spent most of his time engaged in literary pursuits, and his

journals and papers form a most valuable addition to our knowledge of the history of those times. His son Algernon said at his trial: "There is a brother of mine here, that hath forty quires of paper written by my father, and never one sheet of them was published; but he writ his own mind to see what he could think of it another time, and blot it out again, maybe."

Lord Lisle married in July, 1645, Lady Catherine Cecil, daughter of the Earl of Salisbury. He had been voted by the Parliament to be Governor-General of Ireland. When he returned from thence, in 1647, he and his brother Algernon, who had been with him, received the thanks of the Commons and Algernon was invested with the Governorship of Dover Castle.

The King had been for some months a prisoner in the hands of the Parliamentary army, and now he was put on his trial. Lord Leicester says in his Journal: "My two sons, Philip and Algernon, came unexpectedly to Penshurst, Monday, 22, and stayed there till Monday, 29, so as neither of them was at the condemnation of the King, nor was Philip at any time at the High Court, though a Commissioner, but Algernon, a Commissioner also, was there sometimes in the Painted Chamber, but never in Westminster Hall."

King Charles was beheaded on January 20th, 1649, and the prayer he said on the scaffold is said to have been, with a few alterations, the prayer Sir Philip Sidney put into the mouth of Pamela in his "Arcadia."

Whether Algernon Sidney approved of the execu-

tion of the King or not, at any rate he took no part in condemning him to death.

In the June following the King's execution, the Parliament placed the Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Elizabeth, the two youngest children of Charles I., with Lord and Lady Leicester at Penshurst.

They remained there till the end of August, 1650. On her departure, Princess Elizabeth left in the Lord Leicester's hands a diamond necklace. She died at Carisbrooke Castle just a month after she had left Penshurst. As she was dying, she expressed the wish that Lady Leicester should keep the diamond necklace as a last token of her gratitude. This bequest became a source of lively contention between the Parliament and Lord Leicester, who declined to give it up. The claim was not settled until after the Restoration, when Lord Leicester, on giving up the jewel, received a sum of money in its stead. There are two portraits of the Duke of Gloucester at Penshurst, one representing him with a black attendant in the Royal livery, and mentioned by Collins in his "*Memoirs of the Sidneys*."

A fortnight after the King's children had left Penshurst, Lord Leicester records in his Journal: "My daughter, Isabella Sidney, was married to my nephew, Strangford, by Mr. Antrobus in the Chapel at Penshurst, to which marriage I was pressed by my said nephew's desire, and persuasion of my wife, and some other friends, and not by any inclination of my own, for I like not marriages of so near persons." Lord Leicester's fears were realised, for the marriage turned out a most unhappy one in its results. Lord

Strangford plunged into a course of reckless dissipation and extravagance. His wife appears to have been foolish and headstrong. Her brother Algernon assisted them with large sums of money. They repaid his kindness with base ingratitude. Lady Strangford died in June, 1663, in great poverty.

Since her husband's death Lady Sunderland had been living at Penshurst, but now she went to live by herself at Althorpe. In his "Memorials of the Royalists," says Dr. Lloyd: "She is not to be mentioned without the highest honour in this catalogue of sufferers, to many of whom her house was a sanctuary, her interest, a protection, her estate, a maintenance, and the livings in her gift, a preferment. Lady Sunderland married secondly, Sir Robert Smythe, and the marriage took place at Penshurst, but Lord Leicester was not present at it; probably he did not approve of the marriage, which took everyone by surprise. Robert Smythe was the grandson of Sarah Blount, widow of Sir Thomas Smythe (the Great Customer's son), who had married, as his second wife, Robert Sidney, first Earl of Leicester.

In the last few years, Lord Leicester had lost three of his daughters by consumption, and now occurred the death of Lady Lisle. She died at Northumberland House, a few days after the birth of a daughter. She was only twenty-four years of age, and had been married seven years. She left four children, two sons and two daughters.

Lord Leicester gives an account in his *Journal* of the memorable scene in the House of Commons which

took place on April 20th, 1653 : “ It happened that day that Algernon Sidney sat next to the Speaker on the right hand ; the General said to Harrison, ‘ Put him out.’ Harrison spake to Sidney to go out, but he said he would not go out, and sat still. The General said again, ‘ Put him out.’ Then Harrison and Wortley put their hands upon Sidney’s shoulders, as if they would force him to go out ; then he rose and went towards the door. Then the General went to the table where the mace lay, which used to be carried before the Speaker, and said, ‘ Take away these baubles.’ So the soldiers took away the mace, and all the House went out.”

Disgusted by this despotic act of Cromwell’s, and at the overthrow of that form of republicanism which he had endeavoured to establish, Algernon Sidney retired to Penshurst, and he appears no more in political history till the death of the Protector restored the Commonwealth to its original principles.

Since the death of his wife Lord Lisle appeared rarely, if ever, at Penshurst. His ungovernable temper and bitter political dissensions with his father and brother, Algernon, had estranged him from all his family ; and now an event happened which, magnified by Lord Lisle’s jealousy of the influence exercised by Algernon over his father, increased the enmity between the two brothers.

Algernon Sidney gave a representation at Penshurst of the play of “ Julius Cæsar,” in which he played the part of Brutus, and many of his remarks, whether by intention or not, reflected severely on Cromwell. When Lord Lisle heard of this, he at once wrote to

his father: "In my poor opinion, the business of your Lordship's house has passed somewhat unluckily, and that it had been better used to do a seasonable courtesy to my Lord Protector than to have had such a play acted in it, a public affront to him; . . . and then, my Lord, I have my constant sorrow to see your Lordship never omits an opportunity of reproach to me, and in earnest I think laying all other matters aside, this which hath appeared most eminently upon this occasion is very extraordinary, that the younger son should so domineer in the house; . . . for it seems it is not only his chamber, but the great rooms of the house, and perhaps the whole that he commands, and upon this occasion I think I may most properly say that his extremist vanity and want of judgment are so well known that there will be some wonder at it. For my own part I submitted all to your Lordship, and am your very obedient son, P. LISLE, from London, June 17th, 1666."

It was during this retirement from political life that Algernon wrote his Essay on "Virtuous Love," the MS. of which is at Penshurst.

After the death of Cromwell, Algernon Sidney returned to his old seat at Westminster. In June, 1659, he was sent as Commissioner to Copenhagen, to open negotiations of peace between the Kings of Denmark and Sweden, and it was during his residence there that he wrote in the Visitors' Album of the University the celebrated motto, "*Manus hæc inimica tyrannis ense petit placidum sub libertate quietem.*" On the Restoration, Lord Leicester was present when King Charles II. made his entry into London on the

29th of May, 1660. Two days later, he was sworn of the Privy Council, and then when Parliament adjourned he returned to Penshurst, after taking leave of the King, who treated him most graciously.

His health was now giving way, and he complains of failing sight and faltering hand; as he wrote to Algernon, he had no wish but to pass the small remainder of his days innocently and quietly in his poor habitation, and, if it please God, to be gathered in peace to his fathers.

Algernon's Embassy at Copenhagen was most successful, and he writes constantly to his father from thence. During Algernon's absence at Copenhagen his mother died. She had been in ill-health for some time, and Lord Leicester gives a most touching account of her death in his Journal.

Algernon felt his mother's death very keenly. He writes to his father: "I confess persons in such tempers are most fit to die, but they are also most wanted here, and we, that for a while are left in the world, are most apt and, perhaps with reason, to regret the loss of those we most want."

His mission to Copenhagen ended, Algernon was doubtful whether to return to England or not. He did not know what reception he would meet with. He writes: "I have not yet resolved upon the place of my residence. I think I shall choose Italy." In November, he arrived in Rome. The end of 1663 finds him at Brussels, and there he had the portrait painted of him by Justus Verus van Egmont, which is at Penshurst. From Brussels he went to France, and lived several years at Montpellier and Limoges.

Probably he occupied himself during this time with literary pursuits, and acquired those vast stores of learning which he embodied in his Treatise on "Government" and which made Burnet say of him: "He hath studied the history of the Government more than any man I ever knew."

From 1666 to 1667, Algernon's letters cease. He himself says: "In the most remote part of France I passed eleven years, and was drawn out of it only by a desire of seeing my aged father before he died."

He found his father still alive on his return, but he only survived a very short time, dying on November 2nd, 1667. He was nearly eighty-two years of age and was buried at Penshurst.

Algernon was obliged to remain on in England as his eldest brother disputed the legacy of £5,000 which his father had left him in a codicil to his will, and he engaged in a long and vexatious lawsuit to recover it.

He was asked to stand for Guildford in the popular interest. His friend, William Penn, who possessed some influence in the town, came to his assistance. By an unworthy device the date of the election was changed and Algernon was not returned.

He also stood for Bramber, but was opposed by his brother Henry, who was Gentleman and Master of the Robes to the King, and had just returned from Holland, where he had been sent on a mission as Envoy Extraordinary to the States-General, of which he has left us an account in his "Diary." When Parliament re-assembled Algernon's election was

declared void. A very grave charge has been brought against Algernon. It is said that he accepted a bribe from France. But this accusation rests on the sole word of Barillon, who was then Ambassador of France at the Court of St. James. We have no corroborative evidence, and that he should have accepted a bribe would have been against the whole character of the man.

For a short time he was employed in a work which must have been after his own heart. William Penn was drawing up a plan of government for his new colony of Pennsylvania, and he asked Algernon to help him. Hepworth Dixon, in his "Life of William Penn," says, "America owes much to Sidney."

And now we come to the Rye House plot, which formed the pretext for the arrest and execution of Algernon. It appears to have been the object of those concerned in it to shoot King Charles, or to get possession of his person on his return from the races at Newmarket. No personage of importance seems to have been engaged in it. But the Government was watching for an opportunity to arrest their hated opponents, the leaders of the Whig Party. So orders were issued to arrest the Members of the Council of Six. Algernon was arrested on the 26th of June, 1683, but it was not till November 7th that he was arraigned before a Court presided over by the infamous Judge Jeffreys. He was not allowed the aid of counsel, or to bring forward any witnesses. He was convicted on the sole evidence of "that monster of a man, Lord

Howard of Escrick," as Evelyn calls him in his "Diary."

On November 26th he was brought up for judgment and condemned to death, and on the morning of December 7th he met his fate with heroic fortitude. As he approached the block, he said, "I have made my peace with God, and have nothing to say to man ; but here is a paper of what I have to say," and he handed the sheriff a document he had drawn up during the solitude of his imprisonment. "I am ready to die," he said to the executioner ; "I will give you no further trouble." He then knelt down for a few moments, and on rising, laid his head upon the block and waited for the stroke.

"Are you ready, sir ? Will you rise again ?" "Not till the general Resurrection—strike on !"

The executioner obeyed, and with one blow the head was severed from the body.

"Unconquer'd patriot ! formed by ancient lore,
The love of ancient Freedom to restore ;
Who nobly acted what he boldly thought,
And seal'd by death the lesson that he taught."

Algernon Sidney's remains were placed in a coffin and restored to his family, who took them down by night to Penshurst, where they were interred in the Sidney Vault.

A stack of coffins, containing, amongst others, Algernon Sidney's, fell some sixty-five years ago, and the coffin burst open. His bones are now contained in a small stone chest, some two feet eight inches long, ten inches wide and fourteen high. The silver

plate shows marks of having been nailed on to wood. It bears this inscription :—

“ Here lyeth the body of the
Hono. Algernon Sidney
Esq. second son to Y^e Right
Hono. Y^e Earle of Leicester,
Who departed this life
On the 7th Day of December,
In the 61st year of his age,
Annoque Dom. 1683.”

The year after his death his brothers, Philip and Henry, obtained a reversal of his attainder. A lock of his hair is preserved at Penshurst, and there are many papers in his handwriting.

Lady Sunderland survived her brother only three months. There are two portraits of her at Penshurst, one by Vandyck, and a room over the Porch, leading into the Great Hall, is called Sacharissa's Room.

Not one of the avenue of beeches, alas! remain which formerly went by the name of Sacharissa's Walk, and which are mentioned by Waller :—

“ Ye lofty beeches ! tell this matchless dame
That if together ye fed all one flame,
It could not equalise the hundredth part
Of what her eyes have kindled in my heart.”

Of the numerous family of Robert, Earl of Leicester and his wife, Lady Dorothy Percy, only the eldest and the youngest now survived.

Philip, Earl of Leicester, had received a general pardon at the Restoration, but he took no further part in politics and died in 1697, aged over eighty years.

Henry Sidney, in his capacity of Master of the Robes, attended on King James II. at his Coronation, and Collins, in his "Memoirs of the Sidneys," relates "That the Crown being too big for his head, was often in a tottering condition, whereupon Mr. Henry Sidney, supporting it with his hand, pleasantly said to the King, 'This is not the first time our family have supported the Crown.'"

However this may be, it was not long before we find Henry Sidney doing his utmost to deprive King James of his kingdom, for he was one of the principal promoters of the Revolution of 1688, and it was whilst he was lying concealed at Lady Place, near Great Marlow, that the plans were matured for bringing over William of Orange, with whom he had long been deep in confidence. It was he who carried over to Holland the copy of the invitation to William to invade England, and he received him on his landing.

King William made him one of his Privy Counsellors, and he was for a short time Secretary of State. In 1692, he was made Lieutenant-Governor of Ireland, and fought at the battle of the Boyne; the King gave him a large grant of the Irish forfeited estates. He was created Earl of Romney in 1694. He was also Master of the Ordnance, and it is to his tenure of that office that we owe the "broad arrow" as the Government mark. Finding that the Government had no distinguishing mark to enable them to identify their property, he caused them to be marked with his arms, the "Pheon," or "broad arrow," which has ever since been used by the Government.

On the death of King William, being Groom of the Stole, he received as his perquisite all the furniture and plate in his bedchamber. Queen Anne granted him a pension of £1,200 a year. He died unmarried, in 1704, and is buried in St. James' Church, Piccadilly. A portrait of him at Penshurst represents him as a very handsome youth, and one can well believe that, in after life, he was "*le beau Sidney*" of De Grammont's "*Memoirs*."

Less eventful days were now dawning on Penshurst Place, and my tale is nearly told.

Philip, Lord Leicester, was succeeded by his son, Robert, who had married Lady Elizabeth Egerton, only daughter of John Egerton, Earl of Bridgwater. He left four sons, of whom Philip, John and Joceline became successively Earls of Leicester.

In Joceline's time the Library was sold and the large and valuable collection of armour dispersed. On his death, without issue, in 1743, the title became extinct and the estates devolved on his two nieces, daughters of his brother, Colonel Thomas Sidney, who became co-heirs. Mary married Sir Brownlow Sherard, Bart., and died without issue; and Elizabeth became the wife of William Perry, Esq., of Turville Park. She received as her share the Manor of Penshurst. Her great grandson, Sir Philip Sidney, was raised to the peerage in 1835, by King William IV., under the title of Baron De L'Isle and Dudley; his father, Sir John Shelley, Bart., having by sign manual, in 1793, assumed the name and arms of Sidney.

His only son married, in 1850, Mary, only child

and heir of Sir William Foulis, Bart., of Ingleby Manor, Yorkshire. He left at his death, in 1898, three surviving sons and one daughter, of whom the eldest, Philip, is now third Baron De L'Isle and Dudley. He married the 12th of June, 1902, the Hon. Mrs. Astell, fourth daughter of Standish Vereker, fourth Viscount Gort.

APPENDIX.

PENSHURST CHURCH.

THIS brief sketch of Penshurst Place would not perhaps be complete without some mention of the Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which stands almost within its grounds and part of which is even older than the Great Hall, the North Nave Arcade of three arches and a yard or so of wall above dating from about 1200, in the reign of King Henry III.

Most probably the Church was built by the grandfather of the Sir Stephen de Penchester whose effigy is now in the Sidney Chapel, and had narrow aisles, with a very low clerestory, or none at all.

Next in order of date is the Arch between the Sidney Chapel and the South Aisle ; also the Central Arch in the North Chancel, which are of the "Early Decorated" period. The South Nave and Choir Arcade must have been rebuilt about Edward III.'s time, and are "Late Decorated." The present Tower and Clerestory are "Late Perpendicular," and to be ascribed to King Henry VII.'s reign.

From the Lambeth Palace Register it appears that in the year 1631, the then Rector, Francis Sidney (son of William Sidney, of Otford), widened and rebuilt the South Aisle, as we now see it. By this widening of the South Aisle the west window of the Sidney Chapel

became included in the building between these portions of the edifice. The South Porch also dates from 1631.

A large portion of the Sidney Chapel was rebuilt in the "Early Georgian" period, and at this time the east wall of the Chancel was re-faced.

The North Aisles of the Nave and Chancel were similarly widened and rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott, who then inserted a new bay Chancel window and the windows in the South Aisle.

There are many interesting monuments and brasses in the Church. The earliest is the effigy in chain armour to Sir Stephen de Penchester, who died in 1299, a portion of which only remains.

The Altar tomb to Sir William Sidney, "the firste of that Name being Lord of the Manner of Penshurst," is in the "Late Perpendicular" style. On the sides of the tomb are the escutcheons of the arms of his four daughters and their husbands.

There is a brass to Powle Iden and his wife dated 1514. Another to William Dartnoll, "Parson of this place," and many other interesting inscriptions and coats of arms, and a floriated cross on the wall of the tower, *circa* 1200.

The Font is of the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

The list of Rectors dates from 1170. Amongst them is the name of the learned and pious Dr. Henry Hammond, who was preferred to the living in 1633.

The patronage was vested in the See of Canterbury until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it was transferred to the Queen and by her granted to Sir Henry Sidney, in whose descendants it has since continued.

The curfew is rung at 8 p.m. from Michaelmas to Lady Day, there being a small charge on two farms to pay for it.

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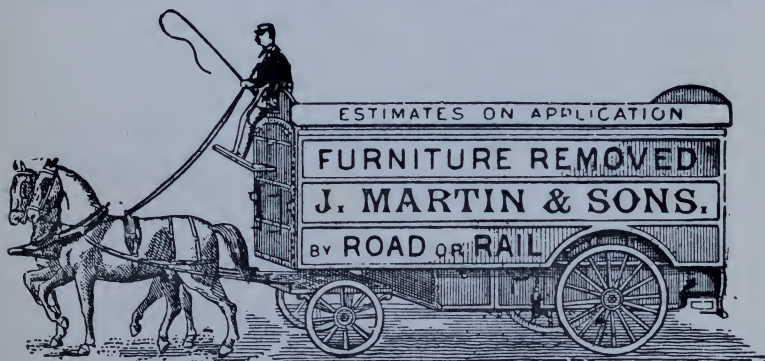
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